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Jordan Times

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Dramatic development in U.S.-Iran crisis Students to hand over hostages to Iran's Revolutionary Council

TEHRAN, March 6 (Agencies) — The radical students who have held 49 hostages at the occupied U.S. embassy for over four months today announced they were ready to hand over responsibility for them to the ruling Revolutionary Council.

In a shock statement carried by state radio, they said their responsibility for the captives was finished and spoke bitterly of differences with the Iranian government which had led them to their decision.

"To prevent any misunderstanding we declare that the Revolutionary Council should take the hostages, or the American spies, from us to do with them what they think best," the statement said.

The spokesman for the council, Dr. Hassan Habibi, said the students' announcement had come as a complete surprise and would have to be discussed by the 15-man body which functions as a type of super-cabinet.

The students' statement indicated that their disputes with the government had come to a head over the current visit by a five-man United Nations commission investigating Iran's grievances against the deposed Shah.

It said the panel's plan to visit all the hostages reflected the will of Washington. "But what should we do when the people who are responsible for the commission

have accepted that the commission is allowed to do everything it wants?" the students asked.

It was not known when control of the hostages would pass to the Revolutionary Council. A student spokesman said that until it did so the commission could not see the hostages, but after that the question was up to the council.

The spokesman added that the decision to surrender custody of the American captives had been taken by the students alone and was not on the orders of revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini—the only man they have said they obey.

Student sources said three major factors lay behind their decision:

—The very strong pressure they had come under from the Iranian authorities to let the commission see all the hostages.

—Ayatollah Khomeini's appeal last month for the nation to support the Revolutionary Council and President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr.

—The fact that Mr. Bani-Sadr had been able to meet this morning with the 79-year-old ayatollah, who came out of hospital four days ago, while they themselves had been unable to get an audience.

Today's statement appeared to represent the best hope for the ultimate release of the hostages since the students overran the

American embassy on Nov. 4 to demand the extradition to Iran of the Shah, now in Panama.

However, Ayatollah Khomeini had ordered that Iran's future parliament, due to be elected this month and to convene in early April, will set terms for the hostages' release.

The students statement said: "We recognise that our responsibility about the hostages is finished and we believe that the Iranian nation guards the revolutionary line of the imam (Ayatollah Khomeini) and will respond to any deviation from his line."

However, a student spokesman cautioned that the Revolutionary Council would have to take a decision to assume control of the hostages, and that public opinion might be against such a decision.

The students have always believed that the nation at large solidly supports them. Their decision today could bring out differences among council members about the fate of the hostages, and further attempts to seek a ruling from Ayatollah Khomeini despite his increasing reluctance to get involved in day-to-day politics.

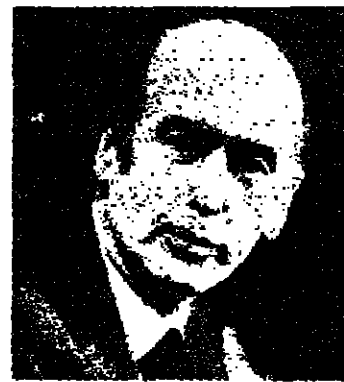
The U.N. commission had been preparing to leave Tehran, but with the news from the embassy they decided to stay on at least until tomorrow.

In Washington, officials in the administration of President Carter

appeared taken by surprise by the report from Tehran, and withheld public comment. "It was not a prearranged signal," said one official privately.

Relatives of the hostages also sounded a cautious note. "I have been disappointed too many times. The only thing I am going to believe is when they are on the plane and on their way home," said Mrs. Marjorie Moore, the wife of hostage Bert Moore.

The U.N. commission arrived in Tehran on Feb. 23 with a mandate to investigate the regime's charges against the Shah and the United States and to do what it could to resolve the U.S.-Iranian crisis.



Giscard in Aqaba for private visit

AMMAN, March 6 (JNA) — French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing arrived in Aqaba today for a two-day private visit.

The French leader, who is accompanied by Mrs. Giscard d'Estaing, will start a three-day official visit to Jordan on Saturday morning.

Giscard ends Abu Dhabi visit, accents French-Gulf cooperation

ABU DHABI, March 6 (Agencies)—French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing would say his visit to four Gulf states Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the U.A.E. is that France's relations with the area had made big strides "and doubtless will continue to grow."

A press conference which the French president, planned at the end of the two-day visit did not materialise. Instead Mr. Giscard

d'Estaing made a statement to the official U.A.E. Television, in which he said that his impression from his visit to four Gulf states Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the U.A.E. is that France's relations with the area had made big strides "and doubtless will continue to grow."

He said the strength of the French-Gulf cooperation stems from three factors:

"First: Mutual respect, respect of each other's lifestyle and the right to have one's own opinion regarding the settlement of international problems.

"Second: Our views are similar regarding world problems. And if I am not saying they are identical, that is because each of us has his own personality. But these views point to the same goal of peace, respect of sovereignty and recognition of the rights of peoples.

"Third: Our interests are complementary, within a framework of cooperation and reciprocity in order to achieve growth and stability that would benefit all sides."

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing said intends to initiate steps after his current Middle East tour regarding a three-sided dialogue between Europe, the Arabs and African countries, but said preparation for such a dialogue would need much consultations between France and its European partners and the other concerned parties.

Officials said President Giscard d'Estaing's talks here centred on bilateral relations as well as Arab, Gulf and Middle East politics. His aides signed agreements with their U.A.E. counterparts for economic, finance, oil and cultural cooperation.

The officials said at the top of the agenda of the talks was sec-

Not satisfied with Carter's disavowal Israel rejects U.N. action reproving Jewish settlement

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 6 (Agencies) — The Israeli Knesset today rejected a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Jewish settlement on occupied Arab territories, and said President Carter had not gone far enough in publicly disavowing the U.S. vote in favour of the resolution.

The Knesset adopted by a majority of 52 to 37 a statement made earlier by Prime Minister Menachem Begin in which he also said that Israel would not cooperate with a U.N. committee investigating settlement policies on occupied lands.

Mr. Begin had said that Israel would not allow the establishment of a Palestinian state. He warned that such a state "would endanger Israel's existence and would cause a bloodbath bigger than that in Lebanon."

In his statement to the Knesset, Mr. Begin said the entire resolution was "repugnant" and "unjustified."

"We unequivocally reject this resolution. We will not agree to it under any condition, not to any part of it or any sentence or clause," he said.

President Carter said the United States had made an error in voting for Saturday's resolution calling on Israel to dismantle its settlements in the occupied West Bank of Jordan, including Jewish neighbourhoods in the occupied sector of Jerusalem. The president said he had approved the vote under the impression that all references to occupied Jerusalem had been deleted, but many references remained in the final text.

Mr. Begin said Israel received President Carter's statement "with all respect, but I must ask frankly: If it were not for the Jerusalem references, would the United States have felt justified in supporting the resolution?"

He brushed aside President Carter's claim that the U.S. vote for the resolution was an error. Washington clearly supported parts of the resolution which he said "expressed total hostility to the state of Israel."

Mr. Begin reaffirmed what he called Israel's inalienable right to settle in the West Bank, which he termed a vital national interest. He said the demand to dismantle the 10 Jewish neighbourhoods built in East Jerusalem since 1967 was "fantasy" and "barbaric."

The prime minister also attacked French president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing who this week publicly supported self-determination for the Palestinians for the first time.

Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned that the United States was moving toward a policy supporting Palestinian independence in the occupied West Bank of Jordan and in part of Jerusalem following a transition period of Palestinian autonomy.

Discounting the American apology as "strange, to say the least," Mr. Rabin, now an opposition leader, said the U.S. vote was the first step in a tough policy that he expected to become clear after the presidential elections.

Mr. Rabin said the United States and Egypt were "in complete agreement" that an "independent Palestinian entity" should arise in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and West Jerusalem following five years of self-rule.

Concern also was sounded over a shift in Europe toward support of the Palestinians and a possible move to sponsor a new U.N. resolution explicitly recognising

Palestinian rights. Foreign ministry officials admitted the government had checked into reports that Washington was quietly backing the idea of a new resolution but "found no evidence" to support the claims. The investigation itself, however, demonstrated a growing distrust of U.S. intentions.

The officials said Israel was taking diplomatic action to head off an official Common Market position on the Palestinian question, and said any action by Europe now could undermine the Egyptian-Israeli-U.S. talks on Palestinian autonomy due to be completed in May.

The government, meanwhile, has taken some preliminary steps to move Israeli settlers into Hebron, the second largest Arab town in the occupied West Bank. The cabinet's decision two weeks ago that Jews in principle can live in Hebron sparked the U.N. resolution, but Mr. Begin's government still has not decided when and where Jews will move into Hebron.

Yesterday, Housing Minister David Levy toured Hebron, examining buildings that were allegedly owned by Jews before Jewish-Arab clashes emptied Hebron's Jewish quarter in 1936.

"The government of Israel has decided it is the right of every Jew to live in all parts of the land of Israel, including in Hebron, the city of the patriarchs," Mr. Levy said while visiting a building where Israeli women and children have been squatting without government permission for almost a year. "This building is an indivisible part of the government's decision," he said.

After his speech, Mr. Begin met Egyptian Ambassador Saad Murtada for a get-acquainted talk in their first official meeting since Mr. Murtada took up his post last week.

Mr. Murtada said they did not discuss the Security Council resolution or the possibility of a summit meeting between Mr. Begin, President Carter and President Anwar Sadat, but said they both expressed the hope that negotiations on Palestinian autonomy would end successfully.

Meanwhile, the U.S. senate foreign relations committee is planning a hearing on the status of U.S.-Israeli relations as repercussions continue over the U.N. vote critical of Israel.

Top state department officials will be invited to testify about the controversial vote at the hearings scheduled to begin March 13, committee spokesman William Bader said.

Regional Briefs

JEDDAH, March 6 (R) — King Khaled of Saudi Arabia was quoted today as saying he would very soon leave the Riyadh hospital where he has been treated since Feb. 18. He made the statement in an interview published today by the newspaper Al Jazirah, which carried two pages of photographs of the king signing papers and receiving well-wishers at the hospital. The king described as a coincidence the visit to Saudi Arabia by U.S. cardiologist Dr. Mehdi Rezavi and Dr. William Kiser, head of the Cleveland hospital which performed open-heart surgery on the Saudi leader in 1972 and 1978. Foreign press reports that the king suffered a mild heart attack while on an outing in the desert have not been officially confirmed here.

TEHRAN, March 6 (R) — Six oil pipelines were blown up in the southwestern province of Khuzestan last night, the Kayhan newspaper reported today. Oil Minister Ali Akbar Moinefar told Reuters by telephone that the explosions would have no effect on exports but would reduce the capacity of the Abadan refinery by 10 per cent (50,000 barrels a day only). Mr. Moinefar added that necessary repairs would be carried out in two or three days' time. Kayhan reported that firemen had been dispatched to the scene of the explosions to control the fire and carry out repairs.

KAMPALA, March 6 (R) — A Libyan diplomat has arrived in Kampala to re-open his country's embassy, closed since last year's Uganda war in which the Libyans backed ousted dictator Idi Amin. The new charge d'affaires, Mr. Yousef Kablan, arrived yesterday and said he would present his credentials to President Godfrey Binaisa and re-open the embassy. The Libyan Jamahiriyah supplied troops and arms to Idi Amin but was unable to prevent the crushing of his army by a combined Tanzanian and Ugandan exile force last April. The deposed field marshal was later given refuge in Libya but government sources here said he had to leave the country after a skirmish between his guards and Libyan security men.

KUWAIT, March 6 (R) — Kuwait and Austria today agreed to sign an accord on economic cooperation, Kuwait Minister of Commerce and Industry Abdul Wahab Al Nafisi said. The minister was speaking to journalists after talks with Austrian Vice-Chancellor and Finance Minister Hannes Androsch, who arrived here yesterday for a five-day visit. Dr. Androsch later met Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah for talks on energy cooperation. Mr. Nafisi said he and Dr. Androsch discussed ways of deepening economic cooperation and increasing trade between the two countries.

VAIT, March 6 (R) — Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands pledged in 1967 and recognition of the Palestinian people's right of self-determination were the two essential factors for a just and permanent peace in the Middle East, according to a joint statement by Kuwait and Luxembourg issued last night. The statement issued at the end of an official visit to Kuwait by the Luxembourg Foreign Minister Guston Thorn. The two sides stressed importance of Arab-European dialogue as a positive sign of growing Arab-European relations and expressed their determination to provide every opportunity for such a dialogue. There identity of views on a number of international issues they said, the statement said. The two countries last night also agreed the establishment of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level.

IN, March 6 (R) — Saudi Arabia will spend two billion (\$90 million) over the next five years on expanding existing oil areas and building two new ones, Industry Minister Abdul Rahman Al Qusai said today. Dr. Qusai said the Saudi Pre-Press Agency, monitored in Bahrain, that the "industrial areas would be built at Khamis Mashit in the J. Madina in the west. But he added the ministry had a of stopping industry concentrating in the cities and the dom's industrial development fund would be supporting new projects in small towns, even if these involved industries of which the country had enough.

Tito's health stabilises

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia, March 6 (AP) — Yugoslav officials said today that President Josip Broz Tito's deteriorating health had stabilised over the last two days but they gave no details.

"There is a certain stabilisation," press spokesman Tone Vahne told reporters. "We cannot determine it exactly, but there is a stabilisation."

Doctors familiar only with officials' public advisories said the stabilisation was not necessarily a positive development.



President Tito

"He could have stabilised at a very low or a very high level," said one. "Since they have had nothing very encouraging to say lately, one suspects that he is incapacitated."

President Tito's own doctors said only that the general condition of the 87-year-old Yugoslav leader was unchanged. The medical team added that "indispensable" measures of treatment were continuing.

The physicians had not varied from such vague descriptions since saying on Tuesday there were signs his pneumonia appeared to be abating.

President Tito is suffering from heart and kidney weakness and an undescribed bleeding problem. His doctors said last Sunday his already grave condition had deteriorated, especially his heart. No improvement in his general health had been reported after that.

One doctor not involved in President Tito's treatment said stabilisation could mean that the near-legendary leader's kidneys were no longer functioning at all. The president could then be making maximum use of the artificial kidney machine with which he has been kept alive since at least Feb. 22, he said.

"It really means that he is not getting any worse," he said.

But Arab disunity seen hindering prospects of an initiative

France shows independent posture in Middle East

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

PARIS — The Americans are angry. The other Europeans are slightly perplexed. The Arabs are hopeful, though the implications for the Middle East are unclear.

The object of these varied sentiments is the policy of the French government in the face of the war of words that has erupted between the Soviet Union and the American-led Western camp, focusing on the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. In the context of the trip to the Middle East of French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing this week, the French government's independent posture appears to have two major potential implications: the first is the possible rekindling of a truly non-aligned spirit among Third World countries that are caught uncomfortably between the American and Soviet camps; and the second is the possible assertion, for the first time in over a decade, of an independent and dynamic

European attitude to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

A week's discussions in Paris with senior French government officials, Middle East experts and diplomatic specialists give a clear impression that the latest confrontation between East and West has brought with it a resurgence of the independent French attitude that was both the hallmark and legacy of General de Gaulle.

It remains to be seen whether this will spill over into the Arab-Israeli conflict, whether or not the French ability to walk a delicate path between East and West will provide the backbone of any future European action in helping to resolve the Palestinian issue. On this score, Arab expectations remain high, though this is probably more a reflection of frustration at the lack of any credible Arab alternative to the Camp David process than a reflection of any obvious determination by the European powers to step into the Arab-Israeli diplomatic quagmire.

Palestinian 'patrie'

French officials and independent personalities all adhere to an unambiguous consensus on the need to provide the Palestinians with a country, or a homeland, or a nation, depending on how one translates that most slippery of French words, *patrie*. Everybody recounts the shift that has taken place in public opinion during the past several post-war decades, a shift that has taken account of the need for both Israelis and Palestinians to live in their own countries. In this respect, France has moved along with the rest of the world, though officials here like to point out that France has pushed its other European partners to adopt a more balanced position that recognises Palestinian rights to national sovereignty. They say, for example, that it has been by French insistence that the EEC has not fully endorsed the American-led Camp David initiative.

French opinion appears also to believe, however, that Arab

expectations of a European initiative are exaggerated. Independent personalities, such as Mr. Edouard Soubrier, the 25-year veteran journalist at *Le Monde* and the diplomatic service of French Radio, says bluntly that Europe is not strong enough to launch an independent Middle East initiative, because it is tied into the cold war confrontation between the Americans and the Russians. Others, such as Mr. Maurice Couve de Murville, former foreign minister and prime minister under de Gaulle and current head of the foreign affairs committee of the French parliament, say the European states have no real influence in the Middle East, given the total dependence of Israel on American military and economic aid. He suggests that Europe also lacks a clear overall policy towards the Middle East.

Everybody here talks of the need for a coherent pan-Arab position before an initiative from Europe could make any sense or headway. In the present cir-

cumstances of Arab disunity, no foreign power is going to be so foolhardy as to step into a certain diplomatic failure that will crash on the shoals of that Arab disunity.

'No Arab World'

The Europeans, in a sense, have become captives of the Arab World's own rhetoric and mythology, which insist on the existence of one united Arab World acting in unison on the great political issues of the day. From the perspective of Europe, which sees the Arab World as a potentially enormous partner in political, military and economic solidarity against totalitarianism, Arab unity is sorely lacking, and, consequently, is holding up any possible collective Euro-Arab action to replace the faltering Camp David effort. In the words of Mr. Jean Daniel, editor-in-chief of the respected weekly magazine *Le Nouvel Observateur*, which has long supported Palestinian rights, "there is no Arab World today."

French government officials, who are more delicate in phrasing their thoughts, nevertheless request anonymity in frankly discussing the Arab-Israeli question and France's role therein. One senior official said in an interview: "We have to be realistic, and at some point step forward with a face-saving formula to launch a new initiative. France has not taken a public position for or against Camp David, because it is not for us to condemn or approve it. We can only judge Camp David on the basis of whether or not it leads to a global peace, and that means a settlement of the Palestinian issue. We do not yet know if Camp David is a step forward or a step sideways."

President Giscard d'Estaing will discuss the question of a possible European initiative during his talks with Arab leaders this week. In doing so, he will stress that other regional and international problems cannot be confronted

(Continued on page 2)

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Hassan returns from tour to Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq

AMMAN, March 6 (JNA) -- His Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned to Amman this evening at the end of a tour of Kuwait, Qatar and Iraq, during which he held talks with these countries' leaders on bilateral relations and current Arab affairs.

Prince Hassan, accompanied by Court Minister Amer Khanmash, earlier today called on President Saddam Hussein to deliver a verbal message from His Majesty King Hussein dealing with recent Arab developments. The Prince later visited a holy shrine in Baghdad and the ancient Mustansiriyah University where he watched restoration work to the university, built by the Abbasid Caliph Abu Ja'far Al Mansour in 630 AD.

In a pre-departure statement in Baghdad, Prince Hassan said that the Iraqi call for holding an Arab summit to review the national charter proposed by President Hussein constitutes another positive step towards discussing various issues and challenges facing the Arab nation. The impetus that

has arisen from the Baghdad and Tunis summits should be maintained unanimously, Prince Hassan said. Expressing gratitude for the hospitality accorded him and his delegation, Crown Prince Hassan expressed the hope that Jordan and Iraq will make further strides in bilateral constructive cooperation which, he said, could be considered exemplary to other Arab states.



During his visit to Iraq, His Highness Crown Prince Hassan spoke with Iraqi leaders, including President Saddam Hussein and Vice

Prince Hassan reviews the honour guard on departure from Baghdad



President Izzat Ibrahim (right), and visited a number of historical and religious sites, including ancient Babylon (left).

Tough questions

EVERYWHERE one goes, the same questions are on everybody's lips:

What does President Carter (or more broadly, the United States) have against the Arabs?

Can we ever have any faith in American diplomacy again?

What has Mr. Carter gained by undermining his own position with respect to both the Arabs and the Israelis?

There are no easy answers to these rhetorical questions, which arise out of the shameful muddle created when Mr. Carter repudiated America's vote in the U.N. Security Council last week condemning Israeli settlement practices and policies in the occupied Arab territories.

But the questions themselves are indicative of an Arab attitude which the United States, particularly since the genesis of the Camp David process, has so manifestly failed to understand.

That the Arabs see themselves as the aggrieved party in the conflict with Israel is obvious.

It is their homeland which has been occupied, and colonised, in wave after wave of Jewish immigration and settlement since 1948.

It is their people who have been forced to flee from the land of their forefathers to live as refugees in a diaspora every bit as dramatic as that of the historical Jews.

It is they who suffer the daily indignities of military occupation, at a time in history when every other people—some with much less manifest a claim to a separate, and common, national, ethnic, linguistic identity—is asserting its right to self-determination, independence and national sovereignty.

Where the last three decades (and only this week in Rhodesia) have seen the progress of any number of national liberation movements from armed struggle to victory at the hands of states of their own—a process encouraged by the international community—this same struggle when carried on by Palestinian Arabs is foiled and stymied, denied and obstructed at every turn by the Powers.

Greatest among these powers is the United States, which has nurtured the state of Israel's aggressive defiance of this Palestinian manifest destiny.

Yet the Arabs have up to now, acknowledged that American public opinion, holds the key to a resolution of the conflict. The Arabs have continued to provide America with its most vital energy resource and have welcomed the participation of American capital in their quest for economic development.

Without in any way excusing it, the Arabs have overlooked the massive military assistance which it makes available to Israel; without agreeing with it, they have sought to understand the special commitment which the U.S. commitment to the existence of Israel—all this in the hopes of persuading successive American leaders and the American people of the extent to which this predatory Israel makes a mockery of the ideals on which the American republic offers its own independence struggle—was founded.

The questions we've heard with much consistency from the Arab man-in-the-street in the past few days indicate that President Carter has, at a stroke, put an end to this quest for acceptance, understanding, and ultimately, justice from the U.S.

What happens from here on out will be something for which he and he alone will have to bear full responsibility.

Jordan's powdered milk shortage to end very soon, Dr. Anani says

By Ron Cathell
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, March 6 -- The prolonged shortage of powdered milk in Jordan will come to an end "within one or two days", the Minister of Supply, Dr. Jawad Anani, told the Jordan Times in an interview today.

A huge shipment of powdered milk, enough to meet Jordan's needs for a year, will start to be sold on the market by Saturday. The milk is coming from the Netherlands through a contract arranged by the government with two Dutch firms. Though the milk is made in the Netherlands, it will carry Jordan's own brand name, "Our Milk", as agreed in the contract. The milk is now sitting in Amman waiting to be shipped throughout the kingdom.

In January, when the milk shortage was first felt, the Ministry of Supply purchased what it considered to be three months' supply of the milk on a trial basis to see if it would be well accepted on the Jordanian market. "But the entire shipment sold out in only two weeks. It's top quality milk. I've tasted it, and it's as good as the favourite brand that's been on the market," Dr. Anani said.

Consumers will also be happy to know that the milk will cost between three and 14 piasters less for a 1,800 gramme can than other brands previously on the market.

Asked why such a bargain couldn't have been passed on to consumers sooner, the supply minister said: "The government wanted to leave such affairs to the private sector. But because of the shortage, we had to get involved."

He said that the shortage was not caused by the unavailability of milk abroad, but by Jordanian importers-wholesalers speculating on the commodity in anticipation that the suppliers would raise the price. Jordanian importers-wholesalers were attempting to stockpile milk, which they have bought at the lower price, and then flood the market here after the higher price goes into effect in Europe, anticipating that the government—at their request—would allow them to sell it here at a higher price, thereby making what is termed in the oil trade "windfall profits."

"Jordanian wholesalers have



Dr. Jawad Anani

been buying milk and sitting on it," Dr. Anani said. "So that is why there's been a shortage." The Ministry of Supply is convinced that wholesalers are stockpiling the milk because, when the ministry asked them how soon they could deliver the milk, some wholesalers said in five days. "It takes five or six days to ship goods from Europe. So we know the wholesalers have already purchased the milk and are sitting on it, either there in Europe or possibly in free zones nearby, but not in Jordan," Dr. Anani said.

Jordanian wholesalers have been purchasing powdered milk from Common Market countries which subsidise the production of dairy products. But recently those countries changed subsidy priorities to meat production instead of milk. So the cost of producing milk has gone up, and it is expected that this extra cost will be tagged on to the wholesale purchase price on the international market. Apparently, Jordanian importers expected that the government would raise the consumer price of powdered milk to correspond with new EEC milk suppliers' prices.

But the local importers' gamble has backfired. Dr. Anani explained. The government didn't intend to raise consumer costs, so it outlanked the importers, found a good deal on milk in the Netherlands, rushed through a contract and shipment and will begin to deliver powdered milk to Jordan's grocers within a few days.

What will this do to the local

importers who expected big profits? "They're going to have to dump all that milk on the international market," Dr. Anani said. The supply minister hopes that this will act as an example to importers so they, too, will begin to seek out better deals and pass the savings on to consumers without having to trim their own profit margins.

He says the Ministry of Supply will sell the milk directly to retailers at the purchase price, and will in effect be subsidising milk slightly because it won't add its administrative costs. Retailers will be able to make their usual profit percentage, if not more.

The government has agreed to purchase a total of 97,000 cartons of the powdered milk from the two Dutch firms. Each carton contains six cans and each can holds 1,800 grammes of milk. A can of "Our Milk" will sell for JD 1.200.

However, the chicken shortage is not so quickly and easily solved. Actually, Dr. Anani said, there appears to be a chicken shortage, but in fact this is not the case. Grocers are poorly stocked with chicken because farmers are selling their chickens directly to consumers, thereby cutting out the middle man.

"The price of chicken has not been raised since 1977," Dr. Anani said, "but farmers' production costs have continued to rise. They simply can't afford to sell to a wholesaler anymore."

Chicken farmers have asked the government to raise the price of

their product, but the government doesn't want to do this.

"We are trying to solve the problem in the long run, not just by taking the shortest and easiest way, like raising prices," Dr. Anani said.

Instead of raising prices, the Ministry of Supply wants to reduce the costs of production so farmers can still realise a fair profit. To do this the government has begun setting up a company both to supply farmers with production needs—imported eggs for hatching, chicken feed and medicine—and to purchase all products from the farmers and resell them at cost, plus operating expenses, to consumers. This way the farmers will be guaranteed a fair, steady profit and consumers will pay the lowest purchase price possible.

The company will slaughter, clean, package and market the chickens. In making efficient use of this process, the company will use chicken by-products in the production of feed. The company will also freeze and store chicken for later delivery, thereby stabilising seasonal availability.

So far, the farmers themselves have shown the most interest in purchasing shares in the company.

The government will hold 51 per cent of the shares and the rest will be floated on the open market, starting in one month. It is expected that the company will start operating in one year. Initial paid up capital is JD 4 million and working capital will be JD 10 million.

Parallel market to be set up in Amman first

AMMAN, March 6 (JT) -- A "parallel market" for the sale of basic food supplies will first be set up in Amman and branches will later be opened in all the country's governorates and districts. Mr. Hassan Nabulsi, director of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO), said today.

Mr. Nabulsi, speaking to a meeting of heads of the JCO's various departments and representatives of cooperative organisations in Jordan, outlined the

purpose of establishing a market, which will be in place with the prime instructions to try to reduce on vegetables, fruit and basic food commodities.

Cooperative organisations handle the market's branch their governorates and the will purchase fruit and veg directly from farmers and them for sale at the parallel keets at a nominal profit Nabulsi said.

Jordan, Saudi Arabia agree on new customs regulation for lorries, automobiles

AMMAN, March 6 (JT) -- Saudi Arabian lorries entering Jordan will be granted a one-month permit to stay in the country, according to an agreement reached between Jordan and Saudi Arabia recently.

Announcing the new measure was Mr. Yassin Al Kayed, the under-secretary of the Ministry of Finance for customs who returned to Amman last night at the end of a week-long visit to Saudi Arabia. He said the arrangement will be put into force in the coming week. During the visit, Mr. Kayed and his two-member delegation held talks with Saudi officials on cooperation in customs operations and toured Saudi Arabian customs

offices in a number of border posts to look at activities and systems.

Mr. Kayed said he had with the Saudi authorities, subject of allowing Jordanian lorries to carry Saudi plates. It was agreed that Jordanian authorities will make arrangements for the lorries to allow them to enter in their cars only during summer holiday. Mr. Kay

Saudi Arabia last announced that it will non-Saudis to leave the cars bearing Saudi license

France shows independent posture in M.

(Continued from page 1)

without first solving the Palestinian issue, but he will also insist that any European initiative must reflect, and not precede, a consensus in the Arab World for making peace with Israel. As such, we should not talk about a European initiative, but rather European support for an Arab initiative.

Mr. Andre Fontaine, the thoughtful foreign editor of *Le Monde* is also dubious about a European move; he does not see Europe as having sufficiently defined common goals to be able to launch an effective initiative. In this respect, he touches on the broader constraints that dominate thinking in European capitals these days. These constraints derive from Europe's precarious position in the middle of the cold war, geographically between the United States and the Soviet Union.

France's insistence on an independent posture towards American moves to form a unified Western response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has reinvigorated those in the West who are perplexed by France's penchant for individualism. The United States is especially angry, the other Europeans slightly less so.

To hear French officials explain it, however, one senses that the French response to Afghanistan has more to do with a desire to refrain from rash actions that would lead to a more serious East-West confrontation. According to the French analysis, rash counter-moves on both sides have historically led to great power confrontations and crises, and this is to be avoided in the case of Afghanistan. For one thing, French officials privately ridicule

the American belief that boycotting the Moscow Olympics will have much effect on Russian policy. For another, they also say they do not think it makes much sense in the long run to drag other states into an alliance against the Soviet Union, labelling this a concept of the 1950s that now lacks relevance.

French officials assume that the Russians can be induced to withdraw from Afghanistan by applying political pressure to isolate Moscow. They point out, for example, the great importance of the failure of the trip to India of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. They also insist that the non-aligned states have an opportunity to make their voice heard, if they can refrain from allowing themselves to be dragged into either of the big power's camps.

Diplomatic strategy

In the final analysis, the French clearly are members of the Western world, though they are trying to work out a diplomatic strategy that sees the independence of states guaranteed by the mutual benefits accruing to all as a result of economic policies emanating from vigorous exercise of national sovereignty. It is, in a sense, the ultimate test of deGaulle's policies, pitting the concept of dynamic nationalism and independence against the collectivist instincts of the big powers.

On his trip to the Middle East, President Giscard d'Estaing will find himself being called on to articulate an independent European approach to offset the much despised Camp David approach of the United States, though in reply he will no doubt suggest that peace-making efforts can only be catalysed by groups of

independent-minded countries, and not by surrogates of the big powers.

In the context of an Arab World that is embarrassed by its own disunity and reduced to nearly incoherent pleadings for foreign initiatives, the prospects for any independent European moves now must be judged as slim indeed. The lesson that the Arab World might learn from the French experience, today as in the past, is that a credible foreign policy emanates from an attitude of national self-reliance and clearly defined national interests.

The message that seems to emanate from Paris today is that the concept of vigorous and independent nation-states which deGaulle championed is threatened by a combination of potentially irresponsible collectivist impulses reacting to the predatory lurches of unchecked super-powers.

It is suggested that Europe and the Arab and African nations have a logical role to play in tempering the confrontational tendencies of the super-powers, and that one way to institutionalise the independent interests of European and Third World countries is by implementing economic cooperation programmes by which, for example, the French guarantee Arab soft loans to African states for development and industrialisation projects in which French and other European interests could be deeply involved, with the French government furthermore paying the interest on the loans on behalf of cash-poor African countries. This "unilateral" concept of cooperation is part of the broader French approach to what has been called a "new international economic order", by which the world's developing countries

should have a greater share world's wealth through a that does not penalise, it being industrially developed.

In the long run, it is this approach that will form a basis for equitable global economic development. In short run, however, it is to which nation-states can rise their immersion in great power rivalries to determine their ability to rechanneling the energy world's super-powers in constructive activities through world.

The message that P. Giscard d'Estaing carries Middle East this week is Arab World may be shi global responsibilities, and national imperative vis-a Palestinian question if it to offer a face of confus political disunity to the re world.

Europe is prepared to constructive role in hel resolve the Palestinian confrontation and the Arab-Israeli conflict, a French consensus, it across all party lines, to concert with a clear Arab that embraces global regional issues.

In the absence of such a biguous pan-Arab Arab states to do anything strengthening their with individual Arab moving along with the principles defining the a comprehensive Arab peace predicated on the and Israeli states peace in the context of circumstances.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: The government's pricing and supply policy does not promise miracles but constitutes a call for the people to support the government in attempting to achieve objective and well-planned goals—the foremost being increases in production and the control and organisation of consumption, to be implemented in stages.

It is every citizen's duty to remember that the government bears many responsibilities, whether they relate to defence, security, education, public health or the provision of commodities. Participation in sharing their responsibility requires from every citizen that he supports the government by economising in consumption and increasing production.

AL-DUSTUR: The task of developing production facilities and commodities and consumption is a joint responsibility as well as the people. Unless everyone plays a role as we call on the government to carry out its duties, the specified in the prime minister's statement before the National Consultative Council, the imbalance between government and expenditures will remain. Therefore, we urge the people to participate in bearing its share of the responsibility.

The society which wants to build itself up and guarantee its growth should sacrifice excessive expenditures on buildings, cars and other expensive items, because it is impossible to reconcile self-sufficiency and excessive expenditure on luxury goods.

The prime minister pinpointed an important issue when he said that we should live within our resources as a developing country which has heavy Arab obligations. The issues of inflation and unemployment are not administrative ones that could be solved by government spending. A solution requires the complete cooperation of government and voluntary popular participation in order to bring prices and to deal with the chronic problems faced by both the individual and the government.

lan Weekly Calendar

(Week of March 7 - 13)



s, who will be performing in Amman next Tues-

CONCERT

ch 11: The British Council, in cooperation with of Culture and Arts, presents the BBC Singers in 5 p.m. This world-famous chorus is touring the first time, and their programme will consist of fish Tudor pieces, including works by King Henry items will be unaccompanied, but the young lute mean, will accompany the soloists and perform choir is directed by John Poole.

CTURES AND SEMINAR

h 9 to WEDNESDAY, March 12: The Goethe eration with the Faculty of Science of the Jordan ems lectures and a seminar with Prof. Klaus University of Frankfurt. The programme is as ay at 3:00 p.m., a lecture on "Applied Heavy Ion nday at 3:00 p.m., a lecture on "Atomic Physics : on Tuesday at 3:00 p.m., a lecture on "Meas- icles and Quanta". The seminar will be on Wed- 12. It will be a discussion concerning an ure cooperation with German institutes in this e for this meeting will be announced at the lee for all the lectures and the seminar is the Physics at the University of Jordan.

FILMS

7: The French Cultural Centre presents a film by ited "Ce cher Victor" starring Bernard Blier, iques Dufillo. The story is about two widowers eagre resources and live together. However, one oinant personality in the duo and makes life e second. The latter then sets about to take sufferings. The film is in colour with Arabic s are on Saturday and Sunday: all performances

ch 11: The Goethe Institute presents a film by itled "Grabenplatz 17" (1958) starring Kai g Preis, Carl Lanie, Wolfgang Wahl and Charles n is a police story. It is subtitled in English and in.

I News Briefs

6 (JNA) — The Minister of Information, Dr. Sa'id appointments in various departments within the nation. He appointed Mr. Ibrahim Samman direc- Mr. Subeil Matalqah director of public rela- Da'ees director of planning and training, Mr. director of the department of development infor- dastapha Jaber director of research.

6 (JNA) — An Arab Economic Council (AEC) pined a week-long meeting here today will review t Arab companies. The law was presented by the retariat, and the committee will review it prior to 35th session of the AEC assembly to convene on tset of the meeting the Secretary General of the e Economic Unity, Dr. Fakhri Qaddouri, addressed hich later elected the Iraqi delegate, Dr. Muham- chairman. Attending the committee meeting are f joint Arab companies set up by the AEC and Arab Monetary Fund and the Arab Fund for eial Development.

6 (JT) — Jordan will take part in the fourth annual amly Development Bank's board of governors, to 1 March 10. The governors will review the oper- ranches of the Islamic bank over the past year and s made by states which hold shares in the bank. ll be requests by a number of Islamic nations to be bank. Jordan's delegation to the meeting will be l Finance Salem Mas'adeh, and includes Central hammad Sa'id Nabulsi and Dr. Jamal Salah from . The bank's operations aim to foster and con- development and social projects in member coun- omunities.

6 (JT) — An Algerian educational delegation is due or a visit to Jordan to last several days. The four- n will hold talks at the Ministry of Education on ion, scholarships, and secondment of Jordanian ion.

6 (JT) — A spokesman for the Public Security yesterd that 18 incidents occurred in Jordan over e resulting in the deaths of three persons and the rs. Among these there were two road accidents and ning in the Zarqa river. The third death was that of electrocuted after stepping on a broken electricity

6 (JT) — Two brothers, aged 18 and 19, tried to kill ighbour in Jabal Al Nuzha with a switchblade lowing argument. Al Ra'i newspaper said the man, es, is now in a coma in hospital while the two en detained for investigation.

T'S GOING ON

French Film

tural Centre presents a film by Robin Davis enti- "Victor" at 7:30 p.m.

Jordan joins world conservation campaign

By Norah Barger
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, March 6 — We have not inherited our land, water and air from our parents—we have borrowed it from our children. This was a theme stressed this morning by Mr. Anis Mouasher, president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, during a press conference held for the launching of the World Conservation Strategy (WCS) in Jordan.

His Majesty King Hussein addressed the nation on television tonight about the importance of conservation. A message from Her Majesty Queen Noor on the same subject was read during the English news broadcast.

Queen Noor is the honorary chairman of Jordan's National Committee for the World Conservation Strategy. Mr. Mouasher is chairman of the committee.

During the press conference he explained that the WCS is a programme for the preservation of

nature and natural resources prepared by four United Nations agencies—the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), the U.N. environmental Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)—and the world's leading fundraiser for conservation, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

The WCS is being launched simultaneously in 33 countries. Heads of state, prime ministers and royalty from countries as diverse as Finland, Indonesia, Britain, India, Portugal, Hong Kong and Kenya are participating in the launch.

Mr. Mouasher listed a number of compelling reasons which necessitate such a comprehensive undertaking as the WCS. Primarily, he said, the resources of the world are shrinking daily while the number of the people it must sup-

port continues to go up. By the end of this century, there will be 6,000 million people on the earth, a 50 per cent increase over the current population. However, if today's continue, by that time one-third of arable land will have disappeared.

In the developed world, he pointed out, 3,000 sq. km. of fertile land is paved or built over and disappears. Meanwhile, 500 million people go hungry and 800 million are starving. These two groups have an average income of only \$50-\$75 a year.

In addition, sedimentation in dams caused by soil erosion decreases the long term effectiveness of the dams by 50 per cent. In the U.S. alone \$85 million worth of fish are destroyed every year due to pollution and uncontrolled fishing.

Mr. Mouasher emphasised that the WCS will not hinder development. "On the contrary," he said, "no development is possible in the long run without conservation.

There must be a complete and everlasting marriage between conservation and development."

The main targets of the WCS, he said, will be the maintenance of natural resources, particularly soil, water and wildlife, the preservation of genetic diversity—the range of genetic material found in the world's organisms on which ecological and life-support systems depend—and the assurance that these systems which support millions of rural communities as well as major industries continue to be productive.

Mr. Mouasher told the Jordan Times that while the WCS concentrates on nature and natural resources and does not deal directly with the problem of energy, it indirectly calls for conservation in all areas of life. He added that in the coming few years we can expect a world strategy for energy to emerge from the U.N.

The National Committee for WCS was formed by the prime minister. In follow-up meeting the

committee will propose a national strategy for conservation and the government. Mr. Mouasher said, has promised to do all that is possible for the implementation of the strategy.

The success of the strategy, Mr. Mouasher said, depends on the individual. He named farmers in particular, but added that others can participate daily by taking care to dispose of refuse properly, by not polluting beaches and picnic sites and by planting trees around their houses. He invited all Jordanians to join the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.

In Jordan, perhaps the most pressing immediate problem is land use and water conservation according to Dr. Subhi Qasem, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and a member of the National Committee for WCS. "This is an opportune time for Jordan to adopt a strategy. We are now on the highest point of the curve of mismanagement of our natural resources—it can't get much worse."

He pointed out that in the past ten years "not less than 150,000 dunums of arable land have been lost" due to the growth of towns and cities. In Amman alone, he puts the figure at about 80,000 dunums. In the past fifty years, he estimated that of the five per cent of Jordan that is arable—about five million dunums—half a million dunums have been lost to the non-productive sector. He included in this once marginal areas that have now become barren rocks—"mannade deserts unfit for afforestation."

The Ministry of Agriculture, he said, is undertaking a massive programme of afforestation and promoting terracing among farmers. Both techniques, he said, will hold as well as build up layers of soil. They will also help form watersheds so that rainfall is absorbed into the earth instead of running off and further eroding the soil.

He pointed out that this year's unusually heavy rains have mostly run off into the desert and the Dead Sea because water catchment areas have not been managed well enough to adequately feed underground springs.

Pollution is another problem facing the water supply, he said. The water in the King Talal Dam has been declared unfit for human consumption and the water to be piped from Azraq is threatened with the same problem due to human sewage from neighbouring communities.

Another concern of conservation is regional planning that will limit the boundaries of towns and encourage a "vertical rather than horizontal spread" in order to preserve agricultural land. Dr. Qasem would like to see an unused land tax slapped on arable land that is not put to use by owners, whose interest in the land is purely speculative. At the same time, the government will have to tackle the problem of farmer migration to the cities and the corresponding decline in local food production.

Financial incentives along with wise economic policies can help here, he said. For example, when

the government began subsidising imported wheat, it no longer was profitable for the farmer to grow wheat even for his own use. This oversight was corrected last year by a decision by the government to pay farmers more than the world price for their wheat.

Another problem, he said, is the marginal areas between the fertile lands and the desert. He expressed the fear that this year such land, now green from the rains, would be plowed over and lose its natural plant cover. It should be reserved for grazing of sheep, he said. He added that the government is considering slaughtering the nation's herds of black goats and replacing them with sheep.

Black goats, he explained, yank plants in such a way that they are uprooted, and reportedly even eat soil. "They are the biggest pest in Jordan," he said. "They eat 20 to 30 per cent of the trees planted each year and contribute to soil erosion." White sheep, on the other hand, are less hardy (they cannot get to steep areas easily) and are more discriminate in their diets.

Yarmouk University will establish a permanent ecological station to measure the effects of grazing on land in honour of the WCS. Dr. Adnan Badran, the president of the university, told the Jordan Times. One hundred dunums will be set aside on the university's central campus in Irbid to study how much desertification results in land grazed by goats and sheep compared to land that is not grazed. The maximum number of herd animals that can be sustained per acre on a seasonal basis will also be studied.

He said that the university also planned to have students plant trees today as well as initiate a programme — called "Let's clean up the mess" — of placing over 1,000 dustbins throughout the campus and the city. In addition, Dr. Badran said, the university will initiate a series of seminars on pollution. It will also continue its studies on the effects of pollution from the phosphate and shipping industries in Aqaba on the coast, marine life and corals there.

The latter point is one that particularly concerns the Ministry of Tourism, according to Mr. Michael Mamaneh, the director of tourism and a member of the National Committee for WCS. "We need industry," he said, "but not at the expense of tourism which is crucial to Aqaba. Any future industry there will have face tough regulations." The Jordan Times has learned that legislation is being proposed that will place heavy fines on industrial and oil pollution as well as prohibit pollutions within one kilometre of the coastline south of Aqaba in order to keep the shores clean.

Another step the Ministry of Tourism will take, Mr. Mamaneh said, is to change the name of its Department of National Parks and Environment. It will begin planting trees at all tourist sites and has already stopped any further construction of bungalows in Dibbeen Forest so as to protect the trees. Instead, it will erect one building either in Dibbeen or the mountains of Ajloun.

The ministry holds that mass tourism endangers the environment, he said. Large numbers of tourists cause litter, waste of water, tension on services, and destruction of antiquities. Instead, he said, the ministry will seek to attract small groups which have a specialised interest in Jordan — for example birdwatchers or amateur archaeologists, who respect the environment — and work on prolonging their stay.

Furthermore, he said, the government will control the growth of private sector services at tourist sites with a mind towards aesthetic considerations and conservation. "The government," he said, "will have to do the pioneering work in conservation and get the private sector to follow its lead."

King Hussein, Queen Noor launch conservation strategy

AMMAN, March 6 (JT) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor today urged the citizens of Jordan to participate in the World Conservation Strategy.

King Hussein said in a televised address to the nation: "I call on you in all walks of life to think of the future of our homeland and how to serve it."

"Let one of our foremost objectives be to hand down to future generations the fairest beauties with which our land, Jordan, has been blessed."

"Let us endeavour that everything we build shall be resplendent with beauty."

"Let us safeguard our agricultural land from the creeping desert and the encroachment of construction. Let us protect our air from pollution. Let us keep our springs pure and the water clean."

"Let us protect the soil of our land from erosion. Let us protect our treasured resources of trees and plants. Let us plant generously so as to make our nation green, verdant and resplendent. Let us protect the birds, the flowers and all manner of plants."

"Let us protect the creatures that God has created for our benefit and for the enrichment of our lives. Our country was once the native land of deer, the Arabian Oryx and all manner of birds; we must spare no effort to reintroduce these living creatures to Jordan, that they may multiply and subsist as God the Omnipotent willed them to do..."

The King went on to say: "Remember as you frequent picnic grounds, fields, forests and valleys during your hours of leisure, as you visit the beaches, the Jordan Valley or historical sites—remember that all these charms of our homeland belong to you and will prosper with your care."

"But remember above all that they have a sanctity which dictates that we safeguard them from pollution and vandalism:

they are a trust we hold for future generations; our religion prescribes this as do our traditions and our civilisation; our duty and our national affiliation require this of us."

"Let us halt the encroachment of the desert with afforestation campaigns: let us combat the plague of pollution in all fields of activity... Remember that the nation is one big home for us all, it is our pride and our existence. Let each citizen set an example in what he gives to his nation and in causing beauty to prevail in all its regions."

The King described members of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature as being among the best sons and daughters of the nation who are at the vanguard of this movement, energetically and faithfully volunteering their services in a spontaneous expression of love for their nation.

The Queen, in her message which was read on television called nature "God's miracle" which is held in a "delicate balance... It is our sacred responsibility to enjoy and protect it... and to pass it on from one generation to the next."

She said that "unfortunately the carelessness of man" had led to the "exploitation of nature" and had "endangered the prospects of all forms of life."

Countries have however, started to organise their efforts to protect nature on both the national and international level, she said. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature has devised a strategy which was launched today, she continued, and a commitment to it by all Jordanians is required for the benefit of the country and its future generations.

"We must conserve and defend our natural resources," she concluded, as part of our duty "to respect and cherish God's gifts to mankind."

Surplus water continues to surge out of King Talal Dam reservoir

By Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN, March 6 — The sight of thousands of cubic metres of surplus water cascading down the spillway of the King Talal Dam on its way to the Jordan Valley some 17 kilometres below has become a familiar one to Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) engineers this winter. In a period of three months and five days since November 30, when the dam was declared full for the first time in its two-year history, an amazing 58 million cubic metres of water have been let out through the spillway gates. This represents more than the total capacity of the dam itself, which is 56 million cubic metres.

In the last week alone, from the start of the snowstorm on Saturday until late Wednesday, 15 million cubic metres of water were released at rates of up to 300 cubic metres per second. Judging by the heavy flow of floodwater still pouring into the lake from the Zarqa river, a further 15 million will have been let out during the coming few days, a JVA official told the Jordan Times today.

The water follows a natural course through Wadi Zarqa to the Jordan Valley and does not adversely effect the surrounding countryside or local dwellings, the official said.

The King Talal Dam was designed to serve the irrigation needs of about 50,000 dunums of farmland in the valley as part of Stage One of the Jordan Valley Irrigation Project. Water started flowing into the reservoir in March 1977, but owing to the

drought then afflicting the country, in the following twenty months it was never more than half full.

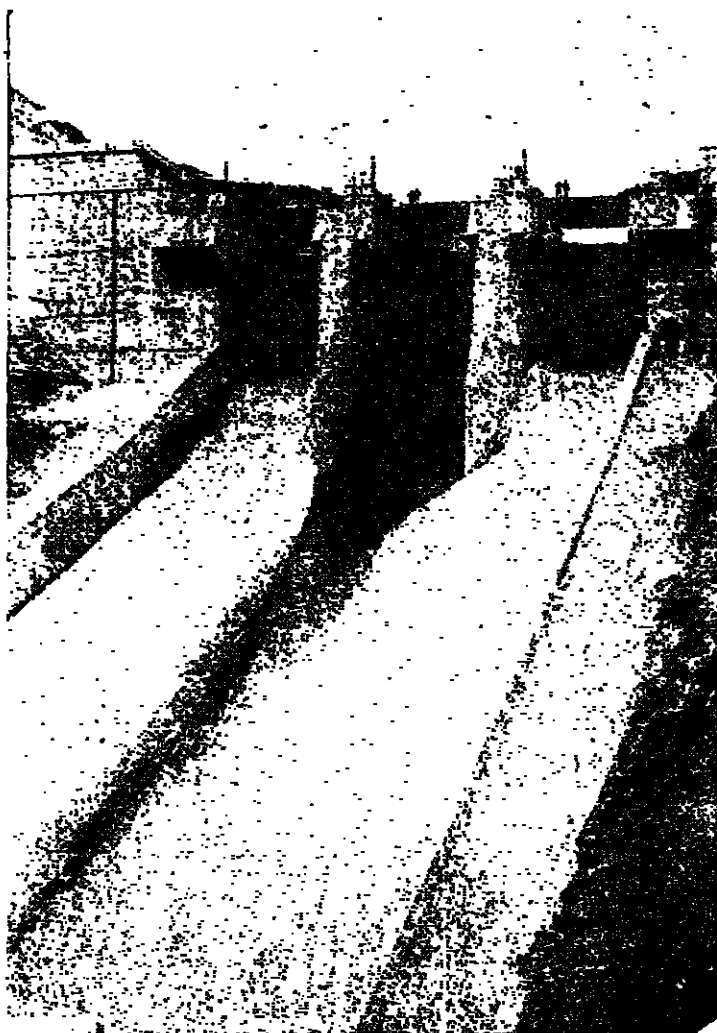
The tables were dramatically turned at the end of last November when, during a flood the like of which occurs once in a hundred years, the reservoir miraculously rose, in a period of less than two days, from just over a third to full capacity.

During peak flow the reservoir level was rising at a rate of three metres an hour (the perimeter of the lake is now 20 kilometres), and water was flowing in at a rate of 1,200 cubic metres per second, ten times more than the maximum flow of floodwater recorded this week.

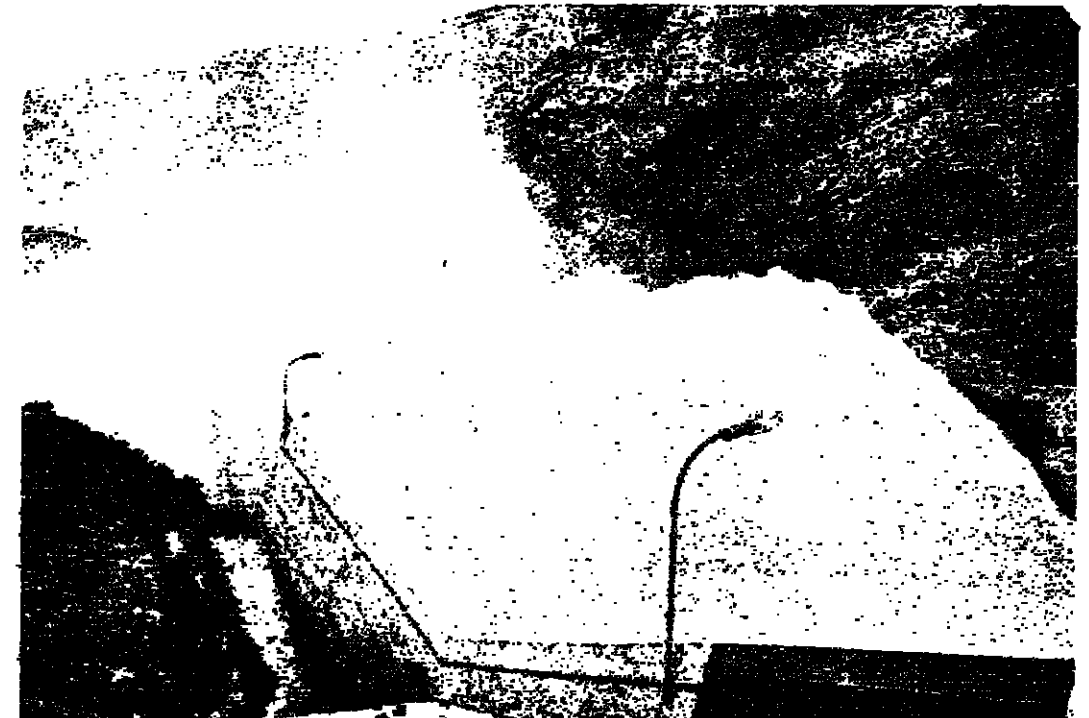
The height of the dam itself is 169 metres, the water level being 164. The dam's foundations and grout curtain have proved to hold up under the pressure of this winter's incessant rainstorms, the official said.

Of the 56 million cubic metres now stored in the reservoir, 48 million is "live" storage to be released during the dry summer season through the irrigation outlet to farmland in the vicinity of Deir Alla (which lies at the bottom of Wadi Zarqa), and land served by the 18-kilometre extension to the East Ghor Main Canal, which stretches to just south of Karame.

By the end of the summer, the amount of water will be back down near "dead" storage level, and another season of anxiously waiting for rain will begin.



View from halfway down spillway looking up at the spillway gates. Two of the three gates are open to let water out.



Water cascades down the spillway to the Wadi below

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	298.50/300.50
U.K. sterling	668.20/672.50
West German mark	166.70/167.70
Swiss franc	173.30/174.30
French franc	71.20/71.60
Italian lire	
(for every 100)	36.00/36.20
Japanese yen	
(for every 100)	121.30/122.00
Dutch guilder	151.60/152.50
Belgium franc	102.80/103.40
Swedish crown	70.10/70.50

TODAY'S WEATHER

It will be fair with light and variable winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Overnight	Daytime
low	2	15
high	9	24
Amman	0	16
Aqaba	11	21
Deserts		
Jordan Valley		

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN JORDAN VALLEY AUTHORITY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Jordan Valley Authority announces to all drilling contractors who have picked up or requested copies of the tender document for the Jordan Valley water well drilling programme that:

- 1- The date for receipt of bids has been postponed to April 2, 1980.
- 2- The pre-bid conference scheduled for March 3 has been postponed to the March 15, 1980. However, attendance at this conference is not mandatory.
- 3- An addendum to the tender documents has been prepared which may affect your response to the tender. The addendum can be obtained from the office of Jordan Valley Authority at the Third Circle in Jabal Amman, Amman, Jordan; or from Dames and Moore, 1626 Cole Boulevard, Golden, Colorado, 80401, U.S.A. Tel. (303) 232-6262.

Omar Abdulla Dokhnan
President

Basketball roundup

NEW YORK, March 6 (AP) — Three of the five teams battling for the final three National Basketball Association Eastern Conference playoff berths were in action last night — the Houston Rockets, New York Knicks and Indiana Pacers — and all of them lost.

Houston fell to the Boston Celtics 103-99 in overtime. New York stumbled to the lowly Detroit Pistons 120-113 and Indiana bowed to the Philadelphia 76ers by the same 120-113 count.

Nate Archibald and Gerald Henderson scored in the last 35 seconds of overtime to give Boston its winning margin and its eighth victory in a row. Archibald broke a 99-99 deadlock with 35 seconds left with a 3-metre jumper and Henderson added a layup with 19 seconds left. Boston's Larry Bird hit a jump shot with seven seconds remaining to send the game into overtime.

John Long scored 34 points, Terry Tyler and Eric Money 23 each and Greg Kelsey 21 for the Pistons. Detroit pulled away after the Knicks chopped a 21-point deficit down to 101-99, with Long contributing five baskets and a free throw down the stretch. It was only the Pistons' third victory in their last 20 games.

Julius Erving led the way with 36 points as Philadelphia posted its sixth straight victory while handing Indiana its sixth loss in a row. The Pacers led 105-100 with 3:52 remaining but the 76ers scored 10 straight points — two each by Steve Mix, Bobby Jones, Darvyl Dawkins, Doug Collins and Erving.

Nantes defeat Moscow Dynamo

MOSCOW, March 6 (AP) — Nantes defeated Moscow Dynamo, 2-0, yesterday night in the quarter-finals of the European Cup Winners' Cup in a match in Tbilisi, Soviet Georgia. The score at halftime was 0-0. Scorers for Nantes were Tusseau at the 57th minute and Pecout at the 86th. Nantes and Moscow Dynamo will meet again in Nantes March 19, with the aggregate score determining access to the semi-finals.

Some 25,000 spectators packed the stands in Tbilisi, a sister city of Nantes. About 300 French fans appeared for the match which began slowly, with most of the action centred in mid-field and Dynamo largely on the offensive.

The Soviets made their only serious onslaught on the French

goal at the 40th minute, with a 13-metre shot by Soviet forward Yuri Reznik deflected by Tusseau's chest five metres in front of the goal. A minute later, referee M. Eriksson of Sweden issued Tusseau a yellow card for rough play.

The match came alive in the second half, with Nantes showing far more accurate control and speed. Tusseau scored at the 57th minute with a 22-metre kick into the lower left-hand corner of the goal. Ayache of Nantes received a yellow card for rough play. Nantes showed strong defense and confident play as the half continued. Pecout, Nantes' top scorer in the tournament with six goals in five games, scored in the 8th minute when Moscow lost control of the ball 10 metres in front of their net. Pecout kicked the goal in easily past Soviet goaltender Nikolai Gontar as a Soviet television commentator accused his country's defensemen of a "serious mistake."

Australia Pakistan cricket test postponed

KARACHI, Pakistan, March 6 (AP) — First two days play of the second cricket test between Pakistan and Australia, scheduled to start today at the Faisalabad town of Punjab, would possibly be washed out due to heavy rains. The wicket has turned into slushy mud and might take more than two days to dry. Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported yesterday.

Australian team captain Greg Chappell and vice captain Kim Hughes, accompanied by manager Fred Bennett, visited the stadium at noon yesterday shortly after their arrival from Karachi, and appeared pessimistic about having the test today, it said.

JORDAN TIMES SPORTS ROUNDUP

Ali's opponent still to be decided

CHICAGO, Illinois March 6 (AP) — Muhammad Ali, 38 years old, three-time heavyweight champion, at a real heavy weight now, is un-retiring again. His manager, Jabir Muhammad, and Bob Arum, president of Top Rank, signed an agreement yesterday calling for Ali to fight Tate, the World Boxing Association champion, for what they called a record purse. The date and location of the fight haven't been decided yet. But the matter could be made academic if Tate loses in a previous commitment.

Holmes holds the heavyweight title recognised by the World Boxing Council, and he and Tate have a television commitment to fight to unify the title in August or September if each wins his title fight March 31. Tate is scheduled to defend his title against Mike Weaver while Holmes fights Leroy Jones. Should Weaver beat Tate on March 31, it is assumed Weaver would fight Ali in late June, the winner facing the Holmes-Jones victor.

Arum and Muhammad said the pact was signed yesterday in Muhammad's offices. A formal contract will be signed later, said Muhammad. Ali, who began training on Tuesday in Pennsylvania, approved of the signing in a telephone conversation, said Muhammad.

Ali said he was pleased after a 15-round workout on Tuesday with Eddie Gregory, a light-heavyweight, his first full-scale drill in a year and a half. "We had a pretty good go together," he said. Ali, tilting the scales at about 248 pounds said that aside from being a little sore, he was pleased with how well he felt. He added that "now I got two more titles I can take. I would rather go out being five-time champion than three-time champion."

Terming Tate "big and slow," he said, "I wouldn't take the risk if I didn't have a chance."

Dollar regains its attraction

LONDON, March 6 (R) — The dollar rose sharply on European foreign exchange markets today, recapturing some of its old attraction as an international currency. As the markets reported a brisk trade in money, one Frankfurt dealer remarked: "The dollar has re-emerged as an attractive vehicle of investment." The dollar traded this morning at around 1.7943 West German marks, well up on yesterday's European level of 1.7885 marks.

Dealers agreed that the main reason for the dollar's strength at the moment was high interest rates in American banks. Earlier this week major U.S. banks raised their prime lending rates to an unprecedented 17.25 per cent. The higher trend of American interest rates has worried some financial experts, however, who fear that it will add fuel to a growing international "interest rate war" in which countries squeeze credit to fight their own inflation and defend their own currencies.

If a country has high interest rates it makes its currency more attractive to foreign holders, promising a good return for money invested. The pound sterling, which has been buoyed recently by Britain's high interest rates — the Bank of England's minimum lending rate is 17 per cent — slipped against the dollar. It traded at 2.235 dollars compared with 2.2410 yesterday.

The rise of the dollar was unchecked by heavy intervention on the markets by several European central banks which sold dollars to try to stem the surge. Dealers said the Bank of England bought sterling to cushion the fall of the British currency. Dealers in Zurich reported sales of dollars by the Swiss National Bank, by the West German central bank (Bundesbank) and other central banks. Trading was described by them as active.

The dollar this evening also traded at 1.7945 West German marks against yesterday's 1.7885, at 1.7132 Swiss francs, compared with 1.7085 yesterday, at 4.2065 French francs, against yesterday's 4.1930, and 248.40 yen compared with 246.85. Gold today fell to 626 dollars an ounce in London compared with yesterday's 645 dollars.

One factor depressing gold was last night's price-fall at the regular monthly auction of gold in Washington by the International Monetary Fund, where the average price was 641.23 dollars an ounce, well down from 712.12 dollars at the February sale.

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هنا من لا حول

STUTTGART—West German architect Horst Peter Dollinger recently unveiled his helium tower. He has worked on the idea for 12 years and claims it is a revolutionary principle that will enable structures to be built to a height of several thousand metres. Helium is a reference to super-lightweight helium-filled sections clad in plastic and lightweight metal. To cut costs, the tower would have a spiral ramp inside instead of an elevator. The result is claimed to be a 90 per cent cut in construction costs. The Stuttgart architect envisages helium towers being used for telecommunications towers, observatories and research stations. (DaD photo)

Daily Horoscope not received

JUMBLE

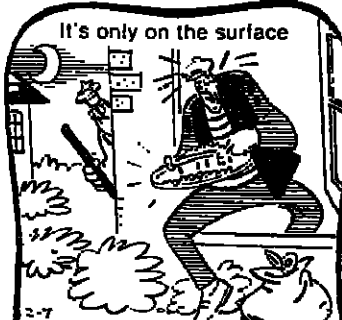
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ADYLL

GNATY

KEEBAT

DRIZAL



WHAT HE FELT
WHEN HE STOLE
SOMETHING THAT
HE HAD MISTAKEN
FOR SOLID GOLD.

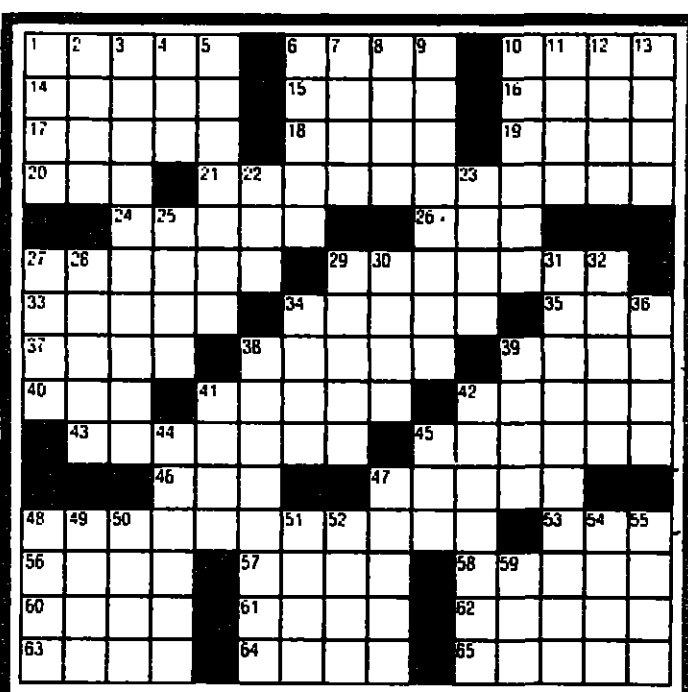
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "XXXXXX" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LUCID WHOOP HOOKED PRAYER
Answer: They called him the "cream" of fighters because he always got this—"WHIPPED"

THE Daily Crossword by Susan Mindell

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| ACROSS | 29 Most con- | 48 No time | 22 Maiden name |
| 1 Different | 33 "enter- | 53 Large tank | 23 Melody |
| 6 Rockings | 34 "Inferno" | 56 Gumbo | 25 Wilted |
| 10 British | author | 58 Donizetti | 27 A Logan |
| dandy | 35 Article | work | 28 Advertising |
| 14 Unconlined | 37 Airplane | 60 Drinks | 29 Wind indi- |
| 15 Fitted | 38 Clara or | 61 Paper | 30 Before: |
| 16 Room in the | Marla | measure | pref. |
| White House | 39 Answer to | 62 Made a new | 31 Busman's |
| 17 Takes long | a roll call | fire | request |
| strides | 40 Blackbird | 63 "Hell — no | 32 Pang |
| 18 Sharp | 41 Noisy | limits" | 34 Patch |
| 19 Existed | 42 Relish | 64 Collections | 36 Spooky |
| 20 Mountain | 43 Melodies | 55 Fashion | 38 Whirling |
| peak | 45 Weight- | DOWN | fish lures |
| 21 Fencing | raising aid | 1 Spanish | 39 Foyer |
| 24 Burstyn of | 46 Sea bird | 2 Cat's-paw | 41 Hindu |
| him | 47 Seasoning | 3 Started | garment |
| 26 Blister herb | | with alac- | 42 Beaux |
| 27 Salad | | ridy | 44 Boring |
| ingredient | | 4 Direction | iteration |
| | | 5 Make a | Residence |
| | | decision | org. |
| | | 6 Seized | 47 — up |
| | | 7 Assist | (refuses to |
| | | 8 Failed | talk) |
| | | 9 Spanish | 48 Ark man |
| | | lady | 49 State: abbr. |
| | | 10 Long-tailed | 50 Allowance |
| | | finch | for waste |
| | | 11 Above | 51 Elation |
| | | 12 Subway | 52 Legal order |
| | | token | 54 Spooky |
| | | 13 Run for | 55 Heavyweight |
| | | safety | John |
| | | | 58 Caress |

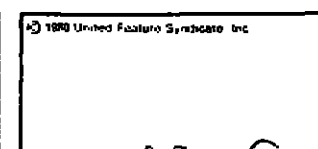


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Peanuts

YOU AND PEPPERMINT
PATTY HAVE BEEN SEEING
A LOT OF EACH OTHER,
HAVEN'T YOU?

YES, I THINK WHAT
I LIKE ABOUT HER
IS THAT SHE HASN'T
TRIED TO CHANGE ME



I WONDER IF I
COULD CHANGE HIM...

Andy Capp

WHAT'S
NEW,
FLO?
THE TELLY
IS OUT OF
ACTION
AGAIN,
MOTHER

LET ME 'AVE A GO
AT IT, FLO — I ONLY
'AVE TO KICK MINE
TO GET IT WORKIN'

IT'S
WORTH
ATRY-
NO, MOTHER

IF YOU MUST KICK
SOMETHIN', 'AVE A
GO AT THAT LUMP
— 'E 'ASN'T WORKED
FOR YEARS

Mutt 'n' Jeff

I HATE
THIS
LONG
COLD
WINTER!

NOW I LOVE, BE-
FORE YOU KNEW IT
GROUND HOG DAY
WAS HERE!

NEXT THE FIRST DAY OF
SPRING AND EASTER, CROCUSES
AND DAFFODILS, APRIL SHOWERS
AND MAY FLOWERS!

THEN JULY WITH
THE HOT HOT
SUMMER —
SWEETERING HEAT
AND HUMIDITY!

Flintstones

THAT'S IT, MRS. FLINTSTONE
...I CAN'T FIND A THING
WRONG WITH YOU!...

...WELL, MAYBE IF
I TRY A LITTLE
HARDER...

...WELL, MAYBE IF
I TRY A LITTLE
HARDER...

...WELL, MAYBE IF
I TRY A LITTLE
HARDER...

THE BETTER HALF By Vinson



"I was counting on a quiet evening, but who phones in to a talk show? YOUR MOTHER!"

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

RADIO JORDAN

- 2:00 Sign on
7:00 Morning Show
7:30 News Bulletin
7:40 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:30 Arab Cultural Centre
11:00 Listeners' Choice
12:30 News Bulletin
13:00 Listeners' Choice
13:30 News Summary
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Music

EMERGENCIES

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Amman:
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Shadi Bawani (3925)
Zarqa:
Nasir Al Amman (82684)
Rammath:
Abu Ghazaleh (25290)
Shadi (25655)

BBC RADIO

- GMT
04:00 Newslack
04:30 Letter from London, Play Choice
04:45 Financial News, Reflections
05:00 News, 24 Hours
05:30 Sports Round-up
05:45 World Today
06:00 Newsday
06:30 Bulet's Half-Dozen
07:00 News, 24 Hours
07:30 Music for the Harpichord
07:45 Merchant Navy
08:00 News, Reflections
08:30 News, Play Review
09:15 World Today
09:30 Financial News, Look Ahead
09:45 Music News
10:00 News, 24 Hours
10:15 News, 24 Hours
10:30 News, 24 Hours
10:45 News, 24 Hours
11:00 News, 24 Hours
11:15 Usher Newsletter
11:30 News, 24 Hours
11:45 News, 24 Hours
12:00 News, 24 Hours
12:15 News, 24 Hours
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22:45 News, 24 Hours
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23:15 News, 24 Hours
23:30 News, 24 Hours
23:45 News, 24 Hours
24:00 News, 24 Hours

JORDAN TELEVISION

- CHANNEL 3
10:00 Kuran
10:15 Caravan
10:30 Children's programme
11:30 Religious programme
12:30 Arabes series
13:25 Thrillers
14:20 In Search of
14:40 Soccer
15:30 Arabes programme
16:30 Arabes series
16:50 Arabes series
17:15 Guinness
18:00 Documentary

AMMAN AIRPORT

- ARRIVALS:
6:30 Jeddah
7:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi
7:40 Kuwait, Doha
7:50 Cairo (FA)
8:55 Agaba
10:00 Beirut
11:30 Baghdad (IA)
12:00 Kuwait (IA)
12:35 Tripoli, Benghazi (L)
15:25 Jeddah, Medina (SU)
18:00 Paris
18:15 Cairo
18:15 New York
18:45 Madrid, Athens
19:00 Cairo
19:15 Rome (AZ)
19:45 Beirut (ME)
19:55 London, Vienna
21:35 Frankfurt, Munich, Damascus (LH)
22:15 Damascus
22:55 Cairo

- DEPARTS:
7:30 Beirut
8:00 Agaba
8:05 Damascus, London (BA)
8:45 Beirut (ME)
8:55 Cairo (FA)
10:15 Frankfurt
10:30 Athens, Copenhagen
11:00 Amsterdam, New York, Houston
12:30 Baghdad (IA)
13:00 Kuwait (IA)
13:40 Cairo
15:35 Benghazi, Tripoli (L)
16:25 Medina, Jeddah (SU)
16:50 Cairo
20:00 Damascus
21:00 Dubai, Karachi (RU)
21:30 Kuwait
22:30 Dubai, Muscat (RU)
23:50 Cairo
02:55 Jeddah

VOICE OF AMERICA

- 19:30 The Breakfast Show
19:30 News, 24 Hours
19:45 News, 24 Hours
19:55 News, 24 Hours
20:00 News, 24 Hours
20:15 News, 24 Hours
20:30 News, 24 Hours
20:45 News, 24 Hours
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23:00 News, 24 Hours
23:15 News, 24 Hours
23:30 News, 24 Hours
23:45 News, 24 Hours
24:00 News, 24 Hours

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Jordan Cultural Centre... Tel. 42303
Spanish Cultural Centre... Tel. 24049
Tays Arts Centre... Tel. 65195
Hassan Youth Ctr... Tel. 67161
Y.W.C.A... Tel. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A... Tel. 64251
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University of Jordan Library... Tel. 65111
Cradel Museum... Tel. 36191
Palace Museum... Tel. 36191

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Radio, English Section... Tel. 74124
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Fire headquarters... Tel. 25900

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Arab Cultural Centre... Tel. 557-901
Bulgarian Cultural Centre... Tel. 333-594
British Cultural Centre... Tel. 333-932
German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre... Tel. 333-694
French Cultural Centre... Tel. 227-016
National Museum... Tel. 112-654
Soviet Cultural Centre... Tel. 225-650
Spanish Cultural Centre... Tel. 334-003
Ukrainian Art Gallery... Tel. 111-514
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West German Cultural Institute... Tel. 224-954

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thumbs and see
could play seven
the lead of the
hands.
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slam. However,
give a little help
opposition — West
made life much
had he chosen
our hearts at his
Over partner's
spades, which
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and a long club

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Heavy artillery fire heard in Afghan capital

Pakistan rejects U.S. offer of aid to boost defences against Soviets

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, March 6 (Agencies) -- Pakistan has rejected an offer of \$400 million in U.S. aid to strengthen its defences against the

"Mr. Agha Shahi, President Zia-ul-Haq's foreign affairs adviser, told a meeting of municipal leaders yesterday that Pakistan has specifically dissociated itself from any U.S. initiative to introduce the relevant (aid) legislation in the American Congress."

He said President Jimmy Carter's offer of \$200 million in military aid and \$200 million in economic aid over a two-year period is too small to improve Pakistan's defence capability.

"For its security, Pakistan must depend primarily on its national unity and strength... as well as the time-tested friendship of China," said Mr. Shahi. "It will not be prudent on our part to be dependent on our security on any single power."

Pakistan reportedly sought about \$1 billion worth of U.S. weapons for its armed forces, ravaged by three lost wars with India over the past three decades. India had protested any major U.S. rearmament of its traditional enemy.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department declined to comment, saying it had received "no formal notification" of the Pakistani position.

In a related development, President Zia reportedly told the Soviet Union he would agree to the stationing of international troops "both inside and along the borders of Afghanistan to guarantee against any interference from the Pakistan side."

The Soviet Government has repeatedly charged that Muslim

Soviets in neighbouring Afghanistan. It said it would depend on its own "unity and strength" and the "time-tested friendship" of China.

rebels fighting the Afghan communist regime are being armed and trained in Pakistan by the United States, China, Pakistan and Egypt, a charge Pakistan denies.

Mr. Shahi said today the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan would enable Pakistan and the Soviet Union "to immediately repair our bilateral relations."

"The Soviet Union is capable of playing an important role in ensuring peace and stability in our region and, by virtue of its enormous resources, of making a positive contribution toward the pro-

Meanwhile heavy artillery fire has been heard in Kabul and tension was rising in the city on the eve of threatened anti-Soviet demonstrations, travellers from Afghanistan said in New Delhi today.

A French teacher said he heard the shelling on the northern fringes of the city around noon yesterday, and other travellers who confirmed his account said it had lasted for about three hours.

The teacher, who arrived on the first flight out of Kabul in four days, said: "You can feel the tension in the city."

A Western diplomat said that pamphlets, slipped under doors and dropped in market places during the past few days, had called for renewed protests against the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

An estimated 300 people were killed during anti-Soviet protests in Kabul on the eve of the Muslim sabbath on Friday two weeks ago.

The diplomat said a call by Afghan rebels for a strike in the capital's bazaars today had been generally ignored, but the Frenchman said Afghan soldiers had been heard warning traders not to close their shops.

An Indian resident reported a big build-up of Soviet troops in Kabul, saying "They are out in strength everywhere."

Other travellers said the deployment appeared to be a precautionary move against possible protest demonstrations after Friday prayers.

The diplomat said aircraft had been seen in the city at night and this morning he counted 17 Soviet fighter jets landing at the airport. He had also seen Soviet surface-to-air missiles, apparently delivered since the last uprising.

Muslim rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government have threatened a big offensive in the spring, which officially began in Afghanistan yesterday.

The Western diplomat said Afghan troops had sealed off areas of Kabul in the past few days in a search for weapons and foreign money.

Kabul Radio reported on Monday that dozens of "bandits" had been arrested, and several arms caches had been discovered.

A Sri Lankan girl said that on the surface, Kabul was quiet today and transport and government offices were running normally.



Gen. Zia Ul-Haq

perity and economic well-being of the people of Pakistan," he said. "Our principled stand on the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan is free from any element of anti-Sovietism."

Past efforts to develop friendly and mutually beneficial relations with Moscow had yielded positive results, Mr. Shahi said.

"But, he added, "it also has been our experience that the Soviet Union has made its relationship with Pakistan conditional on the nature of Pakistan's relations with our two neighbours (India and Afghanistan) who are aligned to the Soviet Union through friendship treaties."

"The conclusion of such treaties has almost invariably led to military intervention. Despite our best efforts, we have not been able to free the course of our relations with the Soviet Union from these conditions," Mr. Shahi said.

He also said there is no proposal to conclude a mutual defence pact with India. He said there still are issues to be resolved between the two countries, apparently referring to the disputed states of Jammu and Kashmir.

Guerrillas in Colombia free Austrian diplomat

BOGOTA, Colombia, March 6 (AP) -- The Austrian ambassador to Colombia has been freed by the guerrillas holding some 20 other diplomats captive in the Dominican embassy.

The Austrian ambassador was freed at 7:30 a.m. local time and taken by the Red Cross to an undisclosed location.

The Red Cross said Mr. Selzer was freed because his wife is in very poor health and her husband's captivity was causing excessive stress on her.

Sources here said Mr. Selzer will leave Colombia today for Europe with his wife.

The Colombian Government has offered safe passage to Algeria, Syria or Libya to the guerrillas, sources close to the government said.

They said offers of other Latin American nations to accept the guerrillas were turned down by the regime because it would leave the guerrillas too close to Colombia.

It was not known how the guerrillas responded to the offer of safe passage to the Mideast, which was

made yesterday during the second round of direct negotiations between the guerrillas and the government.

The talks lasted just over two hours, and the government said more talks would be held but did not say when.

Yesterday's talks were similar in format to the first round, a 90-minute session held Sunday in a beige van parked near the front of the embassy.

A masked female guerrilla represented the militants in talks with Deputy Foreign Ministers Ramiro Zambrano and Camilo Jimenez. Mexican Ambassador Ricardo Galan, who is a hostage, witnessed the talks.

The guerrillas took over the embassy Feb. 27 and demanded freedom for 311 political prisoners, \$50 million, publication of a manifesto in major newspapers around the world and safe passage out of the country.

The sticking point in the talks thus far seems to be the demand for the release of the prisoners.

Spain's Basques vote Sunday to elect home-rule government

MADRID, March 6 (AP) -- After a bitter campaign, Spain's Basques vote Sunday to elect their first home-rule government since the Spanish civil war.

Forecasters from five major parties indicate that the moderate Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) will poll the most votes, but not enough for a majority in the 60-seat Basque parliament.

A key test will be whether the PNV can form a working coalition and govern the industrialised sector of northern Spain, which has been torn by left-wing separatist violence, growing right-wing reprisals and traditional distrust of Spain's central government.

The voting also will be watched closely by Spain's six million Catalans, who elect their autonomous parliament March 20, and by Premier Adolfo Suarez' government, which restored home-

rule rights to both regions. Gen. Francisco Franco revoked that right after winning the civil war in 1939.

More than 1.5 million Basques in the provinces of Vizcaya, Guipuzcoa and Alava are eligible to vote, and the turnout seems likely to top last year's referendum endorsing an autonomy statute.

With the Basque separatist organisation ETA opposing the election, fear of violence may be a factor.

Rated behind the PNV of leader Carlos Garaicoechea, the Basque businessman who negotiated home rule with Mr. Suarez, are the Socialist, the Communist, ETA's Herri Batasuna (People's Union) and the Basque Euzkadiko Ezkerra (EE).

The EE is led by Senator Juan

South Korean officer executed for part in Park's assassination

SEOUL, March 6 (R) -- Colonel Park Hung-ju, the only serving military officer among the conspirators who assassinated South Korean President Park Chung-hee, was executed by firing squad today, the martial law command announced.

The 40-year-old career officer was shot at an army practice range after his death sentence was confirmed by the army chief of staff.

Last December, a court martial found him guilty of murdering President Park's bodyguards after hearing the shots which killed the president last October. Colonel Park was refused permission to appeal to a higher court because he was on active duty in an area under martial law at the time.

The confessed killer of President Park, former South Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) chief Kim Jae-kyu, and four accomplices are awaiting the result of appeals against death sentences.

Yesterday, South Korea's former martial law commander, Chung Seung-hwa, went on trial charged with involvement in an alleged insurrection following President Park's assassination.

Mr. Chung, who became martial law chief as army chief of staff following the killing, was stripped of all military posts when he was arrested in December.

The prosecution said in an eight-page indictment read to the military court that the former four-star general helped Mr. Kim in the attempted rebellion for "opportunistic" reasons. The prosecutor alleged Mr. Chung decided to help Mr. Kim who, he believed, would become the country's strongman in the post-Park era.

Mr. Chung is also accused of ordering troops to encircle the presidential mansion to prevent presidential security forces from moving into action following the assassination.

The former commander told the court he did not know Mr. Kim killed President Park but thought the chief presidential bodyguard was responsible.

The Defence Ministry said in December that three soldiers were killed and 20 wounded in two gunbattles in Seoul between opposing military groups before and after Mr. Chung was arrested on Dec. 12.

The hearing will continue tomorrow.

Experts stress need to view conservation as development ally

BANGKOK, Thailand, March 6 (AP) -- Voicing "grave concern" over the wholesale destruction of the environment in Asia, a group of leading conservationists stressed today that regional governments must come to view conservation as an ally, not an enemy, of development.

Noting a correlation between poverty and environmental destruction, the experts said Japan, Australia and New Zealand -- the most economically developed countries in Asia -- had managed "slightly better" in conserving natural resources.

The group held a news conference to launch the World Conservation Strategy, an international effort to stem environmental destruction. Similar conferences are being held in more than 30 countries, sponsored by the Switzerland-based International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), the U.N. Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the World Wildlife Fund.

Dr. Wee-Lek Chew, IUCN's programme officer for Asia, told reporters that a number of Asian nations previously had adopted "short-term, quick profit" policies of rapidly harvesting natural resources to build industrial bases and reap profits from exports.

In fact this strategy, Dr. Chew said, is leading to increased poverty in rural areas, shrinking exports and no guarantees that industrialisation will have taken place by the time the natural resources are totally depleted.

The news conference brought out several examples of how development relates to conservation: --The destruction of forests in southeastern Thailand has led to a decrease in rainfall, severely affecting the once-profitable fruit-growing industry in that region.

--The reduction of wild elephant populations in Burma makes it difficult to find the needed "recruits" for teak logging.

--Destruction of estuaries in many parts of Southeast Asia has led to smaller seafood catches,

because these are prime breeding grounds for fish and other sea life. --Stripping for mountain forests in the Philippines, Thailand and elsewhere has led to tremendous loss of fertile soils and siltation.

Dr. Boonsong Legagul, Thailand's leading conservationist, painted a grim portrait of destruction in his own country.

About 85 per cent of the country once was covered by forests, but this total has shrunk to less than 20 per cent, Dr. Boonsong said, blaming the destruction on log poachers, poor economic planning and a government policy of allowing villagers to clear forests that once were declared national reserves.

The experts said Southeast Asia's rural people could not be blamed for depleting the forests and wildlife but that governments had to provide alternatives, eradicate poverty and develop policies that integrated agriculture and forestry.

More than 450 government agencies and conservation organisations in more than 100 countries were involved over the past two years in preparing a World Conservation Strategy document, which is to serve as a guideline to both national governments and international organisations.

Red Cross Central Tracing Agency continues 'detective work' relief effort

By Denis Gray
BANGKOK, Thailand -- It lacks the drama of international relief operations: the life-or-death rush of food to hordes of humanity; doctors labouring to save lives; the dangers of working in the world's hot spots. Its tools are very humdrum: files, letters, computers, rows upon rows of index cards. And its work continues long after one crisis has passed and the headlines are focused on another. But the Central Tracing Agency of the International Red Cross has in its behind-the-scenes way done as much to relieve suffering as many an "action" relief effort.

Out of the chaos of Indochina, it has located missing persons and re-forged broken family ties among the Vietnamese "boat people," Kampuchean victims of genocide and famine and the refugees of Laos.

"It's a bit like detective work. You have to examine everything for clues," says Mr. Werner Knobel, head of the agency's Thailand office.

"But you can see the results. Every day I sign letters saying we have found this or that person."

Mr. Knobel's office alone is now processing some 5,000 requests. They come from refugees trying to find relatives or friends already living abroad, from those abroad hoping someone they knew has emerged alive from Indochina and from refugees trying to find others in the refugee camps of Southeast Asia.

Given the nature of Asian extended families, a single request

World News Briefs

VATICAN, March 6 (AP) -- Pope John Paul today received in private audience President Spyros Kyprianou of Cyprus, the Vatican announced. Mr. Kyprianou, who is on a three-day visit to Rome, was accompanied to the meeting with the Pope by his wife, Cypriot Foreign Minister Nicos Rolandis and a number of aides. During his visit to Rome, Mr. Kyprianou met with President Sandro Pertini and Premier Francesco Cossiga. Mr. Rolandis told a news conference yesterday that Mr. Kyprianou had been assured by Italian authorities that Italy would prod Turkey to bring about a speedy settlement of the Cypriot crisis.

NEW YORK, March 6 (AP) -- A tanker and a barge collided late yesterday off New Jersey, causing a "potential major oil spill," the U.S. coast guard said. There were no immediate reports of injuries, authorities said. One of the barge's tanks, with a capacity of 200,000 gallons, was punctured in the collision which occurred about 9:30 p.m. local time, the coast guard said. Oil from the tank spilled into a sea inlet which runs between Staten Island and New Jersey, according to coast guard spokesman Robert Jones. The total capacity of the barge was ten million barrels, Mr. Jones said. He said initial seepage from the barge had created a spill which had moved about three kilometres north of the collision site.

PEKING, March 6 (R) -- China today proposed to Vietnam that they end the second round of their peace talks in Peking and hold a third round in Hanoi later this year. At the same time, a Chinese Foreign Ministry note accused the Vietnamese of being responsible for the deadlock in the negotiations, which started in Hanoi on April 18 last year after the two countries had fought a bitter border war. The talks switched to Peking last summer, but there have been no meetings since Dec. 19. The Foreign Ministry note said the Vietnamese side had "failed to show any sincerity and stubbornly refused to consider the reasonable propositions of the Chinese side." It added: "The distance between the standpoints of the two sides remains so wide that no progress has come out of the negotiations."

KARACHI, Pakistan, March 6 (AP) -- The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) is to provide \$550,000 to help Pakistan prevent post-harvest losses of rice and boost production of oil seeds. FAO Director-General Dr. Edouard Saouma said yesterday the FAO had approved another \$6 million in assistance to Pakistan for Afghan refugees. Total FAO aid to Pakistan for Afghan refugees now amounts to \$11.5 million, he said.

NEW DELHI, March 6 (AP) -- Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today criticised industrialised nations for depleting the earth's natural resources. "The technologically strong (countries) continue to believe that their very power gives them a prescriptive right to the world's resources," Mrs. Gandhi told a one-day conservation conference. "I have been an opponent of the methods adopted by industrialised countries not because we are wiser but because... the developing (countries) tend to imitate the developed," she said. The Indian leader declared that "learned lectures on ecology" hold little meaning for millions of her countrymen unless their economic status is improved. Earlier, Agriculture Minister Rao Birendra Singh announced a "massive" tree-planting programme to combat erosion. Mrs. Gandhi's speech marked the start of India's cooperation with the World Conservation Society, proposed by more than 700 scientists as an international forum dedicated to safeguarding the earth's resources.

GENEVA, March 6 (R) -- Red Cross organisers have asked the world community for \$7 million to help "boat people" fleeing Vietnam and other refugees from Indochina. The International Committee of the Red Cross and League of Red Cross Societies said in a joint statement they needed the money for operations in China, Hong Kong, Macao, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand until the end of next July. More than 5,000 people have fled Vietnam by boat and about 7,200 people have fled Indochina by other routes since the end of last November, according to the United Nations refugee office.

ISTANBUL, March 6 (AP) -- Three gunmen and one woman yesterday shot and killed two militia soldiers on patrol in a business district of Istanbul, security officials reported. They said the soldiers were slain when they attempted to prevent a bank holdup by the four. They took the equivalent of \$1,500 from the bank's cashier and escaped on foot firing their guns, police said. The martial law authorities in Istanbul ordered a halt to ferry services at some landing stations to prevent their escape. There have been stepped-up leftist attacks against security forces in recent months. Two soldiers were killed in the southern city of Adana last week, and at least one policeman died daily at the hands of attackers. Twenty of Turkey's 67 provinces are under martial law, in force for the past 14 months including the largest cities of Ankara, Izmir and Istanbul. But martial law authorities have failed to stem a rising wave of violence with hit-and-run killings of political rivals and officials, bank robberies and bombings across the country.

Brazilian Indians may be doomed by drive to develop mineral wealth

BRASILIA, Brazil, March 6 (AP) -- The Yanomamo Indians, primitive forest dwellers of the Brazilian frontier, may be doomed by the mineral wealth beneath their feet. Anthropologists and international groups supporting Indian rights say government protection is urgently needed.

In 1975, a Brazilian Government study said there were reserves of uranium ore, tin, gold and even diamonds on Yanomamo land. Since then, anthropologists say hundreds of Indians have been killed, either in skirmishes with prosecutors and highway builders, or by diseases the outsiders transmit for which the Indians have no immunity.

Specialists say there are 8,000 Yanomamo living in dozens of villages in the isolated northern Brazilian territory of Roraima and the state of Amazonas, with another 8,000 across the ill-defined Venezuelan border.

"In ten years, I'm not sure how many of them will be left," said one Brazilian anthropologist, who asked not to be identified.

"There are people in the government who view the Indians as an obstacle to economic growth. They wouldn't mind letting them die."

The plight of this one tribe, scientists say, is typical of the less than 200,000 members of 125 indigenous Indian tribes scattered through the vast interior of this continent-sized nation of 120 million people. The Indians, who numbered about one million in 1900, are caught in Brazil's drive to develop its last frontier.

Last year, a group of Indian rights advocates presented a plan to Brazilian Government that called for creation of a 65,000-square-kilometre national Indian park that would protect the



Joshua Nkomo

Yanomamo land. Groups in Britain and the United States have rallied to the cause. The Anthropological Research Centre of the United States has organised petitions asking the Brazilian Government to accept the plan "We fear time is running out on these people and they will be sacrificed for profit," said Mr. Shelton Davis, director of the institute.

The national Indian foundation, Funai, which is empowered to protect Brazil's indigenous population, says it already had decided to establish the huge park. A ranking official said an original Funai plan to establish 21 small, isolated reservations has been scrapped.

"We've taken care of the problem. The park will be established and the territory will be delineated," said Mr. Pedro Paulo Fatores, secretary-general of Funai. He said that federal regulations, which give the foundation police powers to protect Indian land, will enable Funai to protect the Yanomamo.

But critics say Funai has links to some of the mining enterprises it is supposed to regulate. Even if well-meaning officials in Brasilia, the nation's capital, claim that a Yanomamo Indian park has been established, they may lack the authority and manpower to enforce its boundaries, these critics say.

"Saying the park exists is an empty gesture," said Mr. Peter Silverwood Cope, a British anthropologist based here, who has visited Yanomamo villages and worked for Funai for two years.

"The problem is terrific to guarantee a park of this size. You could stretch the whole Brazilian army hand to hand and you wouldn't be able to guarantee this piece of jungle."

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